

# Tulsa - Celle - Partnership Newsletter



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Please send an E-mail to [taronger@windstream.net](mailto:taronger@windstream.net) if you would like to have your name removed from our newsletter mailing list, or if you know someone who wants be added to the list. Thank you.

## *Membership Updates:*

*We welcome new members: Kenneth and Patricia McLaurin, and Rainer and Myriam Dupont. We also thank Peter and SonJa Ahrenkiel, Leigh Lamkin, Chris Van Mieghem, and William and Theresa Wilber for renewing their membership.*

*We wish a happy and prosperous New year  
to all our readers*



## Upcoming Membership Events

### Dinner at Margaret's Restaurant

Date: Thursday, January 12th, 2012  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: Farm Shopping Center, 51st and Sheridan  
Event Chair: Gerald Taron (918-355-2370)

Margaret's Restaurant is usually closed on Thursday evenings. However, Margaret has agreed to open the premises on the 12th of January, exclusively for Partnership members, provided that we can assure her of having a party of at least 20 people.

Each entree will include a glass of tea and a choice of soup or salad, red cabbage or sauerkraut, and a choice of either potato salad, Spaetzle, or fried potatoes. The menu choices are as follows, taxes and tips are already included in the prices:

\$15	Wiener Schnitzel (Breaded pork loin, pan fried)
\$17.50	Sauerbraten (Beef marinated in German style sweet and sour sauce)
\$12.50	Leberkaese (Baked German Bologna, grilled and topped with sauteed onions)

The above prices have been reduced by a \$4 contribution from the Partnership for its members. Guests are not eligible for the Partnership contribution and will have to pay an additional \$4 for either of the menu choices.

Beer, wine, and desserts will be available for an extra cost.

In order to facilitate the service, Margaret has requested that we let her know ahead of time of many of each entree we will need.

Please call Gerald Taron by **January 9th**, at 918-355-2370 or E-mail him at [taronger@windstream.net](mailto:taronger@windstream.net) to make your reservation and inform him of your menu choices. Although the dinner price will be collected at the door, be aware that this is a restaurant outing and that **we will have to pay for every meal we order**.

### Movie Night

Date: Monday, February 6th, 2012  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: GAST Weinkeller  
Event Chair: Arnold Bieber

We will meet at 6:30 in the GAST Weinkeller to view the movie "Kirschblüten-Hanami". The movie will start at 7:00PM. Refreshments consisting of popcorn, coffee and water will be available. **Reservations are not required**, and attendance is free for GAST and TCP members, the guest entrance fee will be \$2.

The movie is about an older retired couple. Trudi, the wife, learns from a doctor that her husband Rudi is incurably sick. Without telling Rudi about his malady, she suggests they do some traveling. She has always wanted to go to Japan to learn Japanese art. They start by visiting their children. However they are hearthbroken when they realize that their visits are less than welcome. Suddenly the wife dies, and Rudi decides to honor her memory by traveling to Japan to participate in the Cherry Blossom Festival she had always wanted to see. Once in Japan, Rudi befriends a young Japanese artist who introduces him to Japanese customs.

## *Recent Membership Events*

### **Christmas Party**

49 people enjoyed the TCP's Christmas Party at the Fellowship Lutheran Church on 12/16/11. it was a wonderful evening and everyone had a great time.

We all savored the delicious Rouladen prepared by SonJa Ahrenkiel, Christl Parsons, and Barbara Taron. Mieke Epps did an outstanding job decorating each table with poinsettias, candles, sparkles, greens, colorful napkins, and she even had a program and menu printed for us. The lighted candelabras on the serving table added the final holiday touch to the friendly atmosphere of the party.

Barbara Taron introduced new members Ed Anthis, Myriam and Rainer Dupont, Jan and Jess Heffner, Patricia and Kenneth McLaurin, and Herb and Ingeborg Reuss.

After the meal, Doris Gallagher shared with us her Christmas experience in post war Germany and recalled how she was touched by the generosity of American servicemen. Stanley Conrad recalled his Christmas in Vietnam, and Barbara Taron read an article about the origin of the German Christmas custom.

Before going home the group sang some Christmas Carol under the direction of present and past GAST choir members Peter Ahrenkiel, Arnold Bieber, Stanley Conrad, Irmgard Toschik, and Mieke Epps. The Christmas Carol experience was enhanced by Mary jane Mueller who accompanied the singers on the piano.

Before leaving the party each group of participant took home one of the cooky plates packaged by Lindsay Klacko, and Lauren Smith.

Barbara thanks all the people who helped clean up after the party and in particular Mieke Epps and her friend David, Joe and Ginny Rohr, Herb and Ingeborg Reuss, and Mary Jane Mueller. She also wants to recognize Arnold and Gwen Bieber who once more brought their wine glasses so that we could enjoy our wine in real glassware, and last but not least Stanley and Barbara Conrad who sponsored the rental of the beautiful Fellowship Lutheran church hall for the Partnership.





## Traditions associated with German and Austrian New Year's celebrations (compiled from about.com, the local.de, and wikipedia)

### Origins of German New Year's Traditions

*Silvester* is the German name for New Year's Eve – owing to the fourth century Pope Sylvester I. Eventually made a saint by the Catholic Church, his feast day is observed on December 31. St. Sylvester's day became associated with New Year's Eve with the reform of the Gregorian calendar in 1582, when the last day of the year was fixed at December 31. But despite the holiday's Christian name, many German New Year's traditions can be traced back to the pagan *Rauhnächte* practices of heathen Germanic tribes, which took place at the end of December and beginning of January.

Instead of recognizing a single day as the winter solstice, the Germanic tribes observed twelve *Rauhnächte* – hairy nights, so called due to the furry forms of the deep winter demons – or *Rauchnächte* – smoky nights, due to the practice of smoking the spirits out of one's house on January 5. Bringing very little sun to the northern regions, the twelve *Rauhnächte* were considered days outside of time, when the solar and lunar years were allowed to re-synchronise. *Silvester* took place right in the middle of the twelve *Rauhnächte* and was the night of the god Wotan's wild hunt, a time of particular commotion and celebration.

Because the twelve *Rauhnächte* – now associated with the twelve days of Christmas made famous by the partridge in a pear tree – were days outside of time, all manner of supernatural events were possible. Spirits of all sorts charged through the night, either embodying the horror of winter or chasing it away. These figures still emerge in the *Perchtenläufen* of the Alpine areas of Germany, when troll-like forms cavort about with bells to drive away the evil spirits of winter. *Perchtenläufen* take place in different Alpine cities between Advent and January 5, the last of the *Rauhnächte*.

## Contemporary German New Year's Customs

### Bleigiessen

"Lead pouring" (Das Bleigiessen) is an old practice using molten lead as you would tea leaves. A small amount of lead is melted in a tablespoon by placing a small flame (candle) under the spoon, and then poured in a bowl of cold water. The resulting pattern is then interpreted to predict the future of people in the coming year. For instance, if the lead forms a ball that means luck will roll your way. A flower means new friendships, spectacles are interpreted as wisdom and old age, a bottle shape means happy times, a heart or ring forecast a wedding, and the shape of a pig symbolizes plenty of food during the coming year.

### Feuerzangenbowle

In addition to champagne, Feuerzangenbowle (flaming punch) is a popular traditional German New Year's drink. The hot drink main ingredients are red wine, oranges, lemons, cinnamon and cloves. The drink's final touch is accomplished when a cone of sugar is drenched in 150 proof rum, placed in a special holder, lighted, and then allowed to drip slowly into the punch.

### Other Oracle Traditions

Other oracle traditions on *Silvester* include swinging a pendulous object, such as a necklace or watch, and asking it a yes-or-no question. If the pendulum swings in a circle, the answer is "yes," if it swings vertically, the answer is "no," and if it swings horizontally, the answer is uncertain. *Bibelstechen* involves opening the Bible to a random page, closing one's eyes and pointing to a random verse. The verse should provide some information or advice for the coming year.

### Dinner for one

This is a recent German custom of watching a short movie about an older society lady pretending to hold a large new year's party when in reality she is the only one attending. This custom started in 1963 when German TV first broadcast a 14 minutes British cabaret sketch from the 1920s entitled "Dinner for One". Germans know it's the beginning of a new year when German TV broadcasts this annual event.

### New Year Celebrations

New Year's Eve is a noisy affair. These celebrations are all about noise making (to chase the evil spirits), dancing, singing, drinking and having a lavish meal. People like to spend time with their dear ones. Party places and restaurants are overcrowded with people. The huge New Year bash of Brandenburger Tor in Berlin is famous worldwide, and that location is the site of a lavish fireworks display at midnight.

As soon as clock strikes 12 at night, people are seen hugging, kissing and wishing each other "Gutes Neues Jahr" or "Happy New Year". Bells of churches start ringing loudly. Champagne and wine flow lavishly and fireworks light up the sky. Thus, New Year is welcomed in a merry way by the people of Germany.

### Krampus (see Gerald's Salzburg pictures below)

**Krampus** is a mythical creature recognized in Alpine countries. According to legend, Krampus accompanies Saint Nicholas during the Christmas season, warning and punishing bad children, in contrast to St. Nicholas, who gives gifts to good children. When the Krampus finds a particularly naughty child, he stuffs the child in its sack and carries the frightened child away to his lair, presumably to devour it for his Christmas dinner.

In the Alpine regions, Krampus is represented as a beast-like creature, generally demonic in appearance. The creature has roots in Germanic folklore. Traditionally young men dress up as the Krampus in Austria, southern Bavaria, South Tyrol, Hungary and Croatia during the first week of December, particularly on the evening of 5 December, and roam the streets frightening children with rusty chains and bells. Krampus is featured on holiday greeting cards called *Krampuskarten*. There are many names for Krampus, as well as many regional variations in portrayal and celebration.



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